

4-1-2008

Maine Fire Marshal News, April 2008

Maine Office of State Fire Marshal

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Maine Office of State Fire Marshal, "Maine Fire Marshal News, April 2008" (2008). *Fire Marshal Documents*. Paper 29.
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PREVENTION * LAW ENFORCEMENT * RESEARCH

Maine Fire Marshal News

Maine State Fire Marshal's Office • Fire Research
Maine Department of Public Safety
<http://maine.gov/dps/fmo/index.htm>

April 2008

Spring 2008 Vol. 1, Issue No.9

WELCOME!

Welcome to another edition of the Maine Fire Marshal News. As always we appreciate your taking time to read the newsletter and forwarding it on to others. Do take some time to read the *State of the Maine Fire Service* article written by Chief St. Michel of Durham Fire and Rescue. We encourage other Chiefs to write a similar article for a future newsletter conveying their perspective on the fire service in Maine. Likewise we encourage all readers to contribute an article in a future edition.

A MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE MARSHAL



The State of Maine has become the first state to prohibit the retail sale and distribution of novelty lighters.

On March 24th
Governor John E. Baldacci signed into law L.D. 2081, P.L. Chapter 510 "An Act to Prohibit

the Retail Sale Distribution of Novelty Lighters." At his side stood 6-year-old Shane St.Pierre who was injured by a novelty lighter last June.

The bill was Sponsored by Representative Sykes of Harrison and supported by the State Fire Marshal's Office, the Maine Fire Chiefs Association, the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission, Maine Association of Insurance Companies, Pine State Trading Co., the Maine Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Maine Juvenile Fire Safety Collaborative, Maine's fire service, and the Dead River Company. The bill passed both houses of the legislature easily and for good reason.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, in 2002 children started an estimated 13,900 structure fires that caused an estimated 210 deaths, 1,250 injuries and \$339 million in direct property losses. Data compiled through the Maine Fire Incident Reporting System from 2000 to date, shows that juveniles are involved in the ignition of at least 1,568 fires. These fires in Maine accounted for 10 deaths, 50 civilian injuries, 19 fire service injuries, and \$27,605,753 in lost property. The frequency of child fire related incidents alone attests to reality that children are curious and do, though not always, play with fire. Given the record of such events, the removal of cigarette lighters that look like toys only made sense.

However, this is not solely a young-child issue. Data collected in Oregon show an alarming trend starting in 2005 that the preferred ignition source in 70 percent of incidents was a lighter. This is up from 55

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percent in 2002. Maine data shows that children under the age of 6 account for 7.9% of fire setting activity while children between 7 and 16 account for 85.6% of such fires.

Homes contain an abundance of products that can serve as fuel for deadly and destructive fires, and open flame – a birthday candle, lighters or matches – is a dangerous and destructive ignition source. Toy-like lighters by design have the characteristics that make them appealing and intriguing to adults and children alike. This presents a risk to our youth that is both unacceptable and preventable.

While attending a recent national forum to develop a national strategy for fire prevention, many participants congratulated me and requested copies of the bill and more information to see similar action be taken in their states. Like the fire safe cigarettes legislation, legislation prohibiting novelty lighters will likely be written and enacted in other states in the coming years.

I would like to extend the congratulations I received from participants at the Vision 20/20 Forum on Fire Prevention to Representative Sykes, Governor Baldacci, Maine's Legislature and all other supporters for their help in putting Maine first as a leader in this effort.

In closing let me remind all Maine residents that spring is upon us and as we clean our yards and pile up the brush let's be careful about burning this debris. In addition, as you get your grills ready for the season, check to make sure they're in good working order and a safe distance from the house or other structure before you use them.

Thank you, have a great and safe spring season.

Sincerely,
John C. Dean
Fire Marshal

Measuring the Cost of Fire In Maine

By Richard E. Taylor, Sr. Research and Planning Analyst

This article will be the first of many to examine in more detail the cost of fire in Maine specifically. The United States Fire Administration and the National Fire Protection Association publish reports estimating the total cost of fire nationally. Using their models and others developed by various organizations worldwide we will begin to look at this cost as it pertains to Maine. We will begin by looking at the estimated cost of total property loss in structure fires that occurred in one or two family dwellings in Maine for 2006.

Fire costs are estimated primarily by grouping fire loss into four basic measures: fire, property loss, injuries, and fatalities. These measures include direct and indirect social and economic costs. These numbers come from NFIRS, CDC, insurance company information and other sources of data upon which an *estimate* can be made.

The difficulty with such estimates is, of course, the number of incomplete NFIRS reports that are

"of the 555 incidents of this type reported in 2006, only 196 entered a dollar loss amount... So, if only 196 reported a dollar loss what was the real dollar loss?"

filed. In Maine we drew our numbers from the MEFIRS data set by querying the structure fire incident code (111) for property type (419) one or two family dwellings. As is the case for the USFA and NFPA, not all structure fires reported in these fires came with a total dollar loss (property and contents) field filled in. In fact, of the 555 incidents of this type reported in 2006, only 196 entered a dollar loss amount. The total loss reported was \$10.5 million dollars. But, if only 196 reported a dollar loss what was the real dollar loss?

What I did, with the help of a friend, to estimate the real dollar loss was compare the size (population) of the towns reporting fires with the actual distribution of towns by size across Maine. Then I divided the towns into population groups.

Because towns with more than 7,500 had a minimum of 84% or better reporting dollar losses, I left these dollar loss figures reported alone. The remaining towns were grouped into three categories of 499 or less, 500 – 2499, and 2500 – 7499. I took the proportion of small towns reporting to the total number of towns of a similar size to develop a multiple. For instance, if half the towns in a particular grouping reported, I doubled the reported dollar loss figure.

Using this method, the total property loss in structure fires occurring in single-family dwellings for 2006 is *estimated* to be \$18.6 million or nearly double that reported. Taking the analysis one step further, this estimated amount of dollar loss would equal approximately .05 percent of the state's total GDP.

The State of Maine's Fire Service

In the January issue of the Fire Marshal's Newsletter, Chief Matson of Milford Fire/Rescue submitted the second article on the state of Maine's fire service. The article received positive remarks and the idea of having such an article in the newsletter has also been encouraged.

Chief William St. Michel of Durham Fire & Rescue contributed the following article, the third in this series. Take a moment to read what the Chief has to say and don't hesitate to contact me if you'd like to provide your own perspective. Do you agree with Chief St. Michel? Or are you seeing the fire service in a different light?

Chief St. Michel responded to the following question:

In terms of suppression, public education, public awareness, intervention, code enforcement activities, and EMS services where do you think the fire service should be now and where do you think it should be in the future? Why do you believe this and what obstacles do we face?

Here's Chief St. Michel's response.

The Volunteer Fire Service has changed drastically since I signed up in the 70's. Our training has shifted from OJT (on the job training) to certified Firefighter 1 & 2, Officer 1 & 2, Instructor 1 & 2, Pumps 1 & 2, EVOC, and the list goes on. Many of us had no gear - never mind airpicks. If you did have any of those luxuries it was more than likely one or two packs that were never allowed to be used; except training, and gear that had been scrounged somewhere. The gear was different then, it was one size fits all, first come first serve. We don't gear up on the tailboard anymore; we gear up before we get on the apparatus. We don't even ride the tailboard anymore; we ride in a fully enclosed cab with our seatbelts on. On the front of that cab is a State Inspection sticker. Behind that cab is a tested pump, tested hose, tested ladders, and numerous other specialty tools. When we return from a run we put the apparatus in service with spare equipment if need be. Mechanical repairs done on return have been replaced with washing and cleaning. In fact we even clean our gear. We communicate with radios not a runner. The changes in the last thirty years are overwhelming. I look back at those days with fond memories, but I'm excited about how far we have come. Yet we still have a long way to go!

I think part of the change we have seen is because we have opened our doors. We work with each other, we train with each other, we talk to the press, and we reach out to the public. Most of us have at least some type of fire prevention program. They range from an open house, to public service announcements. Our code enforcement activities and inspection are lagging. Primarily due to staffing and lack of knowledge we haven't made much headway there. Our involvement in codes is sporadic at best. We definitely have a long way to go!

More and more departments are offering some type of Emergency Medical Services. It more often than not is a non-transporting first responder service. But it's a step in the right direction; it provides a higher level of safety for

our people, and in invaluable service to our citizens. Yet we still have a long way to go!

As excited as I am about our accomplishments, I am more excited about what the future holds for us. We are overwhelmed with mandates, record keeping, and changes in service. We are in the public eye; they want quality service, and the security we can provide. Their expectations are that we are the experts, and that if there were a flaw or a shortfall we would be telling them.

Our biggest hurdle is convincing ourselves that we are the experts; that we have a responsibility to ourselves, our departments, and our community to represent change no matter how unpopular or costly it may be. If thirty years from now somebody else can't write about our accomplishments in public education, public awareness, intervention, codes, EMS and not run out of space we haven't done our job!

We pride ourselves with being proactive, and we are. We have taken the necessary proactive steps to prepare for a reaction. Now it's time to take it to the next level and take proactive steps to assure no reaction is necessary. We won't be out of a job; we might need to change our job descriptions a little. Ask yourself this, how do we reduce firefighter injury and death? The answer is simple reduce their exposure to hazardous environments, physically demanding situations, and stress. How do we improve recruitment and retention? The answer is creating a positive, winning environment; where personnel are active, well received, and professional. Next question do we need bigger apparatus, larger pumps, and more of them? I hope not, I don't have the space or the water for them.

"Our biggest hurdle is convincing ourselves that we are the experts; that we have a responsibility to ourselves, our departments, and our community to represent change no matter how unpopular or costly it may be."

I think our path is clear. We should get a good grade on our suppression capabilities. But we can't afford to let it slip; we need to continue to improve equipment, and quality of training. We're still getting people hurt, so that should be our next focus; a focus on reducing the exposure to hazardous environments, physically demanding situations, and stress through education and prevention.

The volunteer fire service needs to become more active in public education. That should be "job one" every day. I think we need to not just settle for an open house or fire prevention week activities. Instead we should be creative in our methods. Keep what we have and build upon it. An article in a Town newsletter or a page on the Town website. There are many websites out there with articles posted just for these types of uses. Interact with the schools. We all need to try to get into the schools at least monthly, maybe only for a fire drill. Or better yet to present a piece from a recognized curriculum, something like this fits with the State's educational requirements. One thing we have been doing locally that has had a very positive impact is we will have the students come to the station for a field trip. During fire prevention week and EMS week, each class grades K - 5 come for a half hour which includes an educational presentation and activity; as well as the fun of just climbing on the apparatus. Our goal is to have grades 6 - 8 prepare those educational presentations as one of their class projects. There are a million ways to get the word out and make everyone a little safer.

Many of us have primarily residential tax bases, how do we continue to find the funding to meet an increasing demand for service? Perhaps some of that demand could be nullified with a more active role in codes, advocacy, inspection, and enforcement. Lets stop putting firefighters in harms way lets put one in every home, lets advocate for residential sprinklers. Attend planning board meetings, review plans, and inspect occupancies.

EMS is nothing but winning. Whether it's first response, transport, BLS or ALS if you do it right you can't lose. It is a service we need to provide our communities. Most of the time we can provide it quicker than the alternatives, we already have the supporting systems in place; operational structure, dispatch, radios, apparatus, and most of us already have a few licensed people on board. Having a quicker response of people your constituents already know introducing them to the health care system during a traumatic situation will have positive results. The Volunteer Fire Service needs to embrace EMS. Not because it may provide revenues, that should be the last reason. We need to embrace and accept it because it's safer for our personnel, our citizens; it's an opportunity to draw additional personnel, and it's an opportunity to create a positive winning environment.

I'm excited about what we have done, and I'm excited about where we may go. There are hurdles galore that we will need to tackle, but we can't tackle any of them until we tackle the most foreboding; our mind set. We can't be satisfied with what we have done on prevention, education, and codes. Our very budgets show our focus, it's a rarity for an operational budget to have more than 2% or 3% focused on being truly PROACTIVE.

Rules Update

By Richard E. Taylor, Sr. Research and Planning Analyst

There are twenty-three new editions of National Fire Protection Association codes to be reviewed, proposed, and possibly incorporated into the Fire Marshal's rules this year. The following SFMO chapters will be affected by changes in the new NFPA codes/standards listed below each chapter.

FM Chapter 4, Sprinkler Systems

Explanation: Pending review this change will incorporate NFPA 22, *Standard for Water Tanks for Fire Protection*, 2008 edition, and NFPA 25,

Standard for the Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems, 2008 edition.

FM Chapter 5, Portable Fire Extinguishers

Explanation: Pending review this change will incorporate NFPA 10, *Standard for Portable Fire Extinguishers*, 2007 edition.

FM Chapter 6, Fire Extinguishing Systems

Explanation: Pending review this change will incorporate NFPA 12, *Standard on Carbon Dioxide Extinguishing Systems*, 2005 edition; NFPA 18, *Standard on Wetting Agents*, 2006 edition and NFPA 2001, *Standard on Clean Agent Extinguishing Systems*, 2008 edition.

FM Chapter 7, Dry Cleaning Plants

Explanation: Pending review this change will incorporate NFPA 32, *Standard for Dry Cleaning Plants*, 2007 edition.

FM Chapter 8, Spray Applications

Explanation: Pending review this change will incorporate NFPA 33, *Standard for Spray Application Using Flammable or Combustible Materials*, 2007 edition.

FM Chapter 9, Dip Tanks

Explanation: Pending review this change will incorporate NFPA 34, *Standard for Dipping and Coating Processes Using Flammable or Combustible Liquids*, 2007 edition.

FM Chapter 10, Stationary Combustion Engines and Turbines

Explanation: Pending review this change will incorporate NFPA 37, *Standard for the Installation and Use of Stationary Combustion Engines and Gas Turbines*, 2006 edition.



FM Chapter 13, Welding and Cutting

Explanation: Pending review this change will incorporate NFPA 51, *Standard for the Design and Installation of Oxygen-Fueled Gas Systems for Welding, Cutting and Allied Processes*, 2007 edition and NFPA 51A, *Standard for Acetylene Cylinder Charging Plants*, 2006 edition.

FM Chapter 16, Liquefied Petroleum Gases

Explanation: Pending review this change will incorporate NFPA 58, *Liquefied Petroleum Gas Code*, 2008 edition and NFPA 59, *Utility LP-Gas Plant Code*, 2008 edition.

FM Chapter 19, Vapor Removal From Cooking Equipment

Explanation: Pending review this change will incorporate NFPA 96, *Standard for Ventilation Control and Fire Protection of Commercial Cooking Operations*, 2008.

FM Chapter 21, Tents and Grandstands

Explanation: Pending review this change will incorporate NFPA 102, *Standard for Grandstands, Folding and Telescopic Seating, Tents, and Membrane Structures*, 2006 edition.

FM Chapter 23, Purged and Pressurized Enclosures for Electrical Equipment

Explanation: Pending review this change will incorporate NFPA 496, *Standard for Purged and Pressurized Enclosures for Electrical Equipment*, 2008 edition.

FM Chapter 25, Rules for the Display of Fireworks

Explanation: Pending review this change will incorporate NFPA 1122, *Code for Model Rocketry*, edition 2008; NFPA 1123, *Code for Fireworks Display*, 2006 edition, and NFPA 1124, *Code for the Manufacture, Transportation,*

Storage and Retail Sales of Fireworks and Pyrotechnic Articles, 2006 edition.

FM Chapter 34, Flammable and Combustible Liquids

Explanation: Pending review this change will incorporate NFPA 30, *Flammable and Combustible Liquids Code*, 2008 edition and NFPA 30A, *Code for Motor Fuel Dispensing Facilities and Repair Garages*, 2008 edition.

FIREFIGHTERS' SECOND BEST FRIEND



FIREFIGHTERS' BEST FRIEND



HOME FIRE SPRINKLERS

Your Best Friend when fire strikes your home.



Home fire sprinklers save your life,
your loved ones, and your property.



Ask your home builder to install fire sprinklers and protect what you value most.
And visit the U. S. Fire Administration's Web site at www.usfa.fema.gov to learn more about home fire sprinklers.

FA-296/July 2006

MEFIRS – Maine Fire Incident Reporting System

	Current Statistics 2008 (4/4/2008)	Totals for 2006
Total Incidents Reported:	2,999	79,223
Fires:	307	4,203
EMS:	1,577	50,068
All others:	1,115	24,952
Fire Departments Reporting	76	213

MEFIRS:

Who's reporting and who's not? In 2006 213 Maine Fire Departments reported which represents approximately half of the departments with an FDID number. We anticipate the number of reporting departments in 2007 to exceed 213. In terms of composition we have both career and volunteer departments reporting. Clearly the larger departments are reporting more than the smaller. In fact, Maine departments located in towns with a population of more than seventy-five hundred are reporting 83% or better most of the time. Towns with a population of five thousand to seventy five hundred report 58% of the time while those between five hundred and twenty-five hundred report 31% of the time. Towns under five hundred are only reporting 13% of the time. Clearly there has been increased reporting by county across the board since 2003.

The Fire Marshal's Office does understand why some departments don't report each year. Personnel changes, computer issues, funding and time are just a few of the issues making it difficult for some departments to report. But the benefits of reporting are considerable at both the local and state level. Without the data it is difficult for the fire service to make a strong case for legislative proposals at the state level or local ordinances as well as make the case for funding (grants) or for planning purposes in general. Within the MEFIRS modules there are inputs which when completed thoroughly, provide us with a picture of Maine's fire burden in terms of fires, property/content losses, injuries, and fatalities. Having that information helps us ascertain what the real cost of fire is to the Maine taxpayer. MEFIRS data can provide us with information that guides our fire prevention or safety efforts. Should we use codes? Develop a public education or awareness program? Should we offer an intervention program? The information in MEFIRS tells us about the fire incident in terms of the who, what, when, where, how and why of fire. And that information can make the difference between investing in a program or approach that won't work as opposed to one that will.

Under 25 M.R.S.A § 2395 "The municipal fire chief shall submit to the State Fire Marshal an incident report for each response made, regardless of whether an actual fire occurred. The report must be submitted in a manner consistent with a national fire incident reporting system." For those of you who are not yet reporting we'd suggest you go to: [Office of Maine State Fire Marshal: Maine Fire Incident Reporting System: Home](#) to learn more about the MEFIRS system.

Some FAQs:

1. What would be the incident type if a fire started in a sofa and stayed contained to that sofa?

If the sofa was inside the house, it would be Incident type 111 – structure fire.

2. What would the code for Landing Zone Helicopter be? This is an incident type. I am thinking something should be under service call or something to that affect. I have a user looking for a code for it who said that it used to have something out there. I am not sure if my user is thinking of our old system or NFIRS.

Your user should use the incident type code: 462 Aircraft standby. This includes routine standby for takeoff and landing as well as emergency alerts at airports.

Finally, remember *if you want to map the fires in your service area using GIS mapping technologies*, it is important to include the full address including prefix, street name, street type, and suffix. Use a capital followed by lower case in the street and town name. This will save you time editing when you create your attribute table from the database.

Historical Buildings and Fire Regulations

By Richard E. Taylor, Sr. Research and Planning Analyst

Having an interest in American history and work experience in such places as Montpelier (James Madison's Home) and other similar structures of historical significance I'm often struck by the adamant opposition to fire codes as they relate to historical buildings.

I was reading recently how laborious a task it has been for historians to recreate Thomas Jefferson's famed library. Why? Because portions of the original collection stored in the Library of Congress burned! I'm sure if Jefferson were living today he'd be requesting that existing technologies available to avoid such a loss be utilized to protect these books. Many structures themselves can be protected with fire suppression technologies that won't destroy but will save both the contents and structures containing them.

Historic buildings preserve the past and offer a fascinating glimpse into changes in architectural styles and American life. Though preserving these structures and contents with modern technologies does cost some money, the benefits are considerable for this generation and the many that will follow. Let's think carefully about opposing rules that aim to preserve our American heritage using the dollar cost argument alone. Some costs go beyond money.

Dog Saved

By Richard E. Taylor, Sr. Research and Planning Analyst

In Auburn this past Valentines Day a family received a gift the value of which can only be attested to by the looks on their face (see photo).

Auburn firefighters were dispatched to the fire after being called by a flower deliveryman who noticed smoke coming from the residence. Upon arrival firefighters were able to suppress the fire and remove the unconscious K-9 from the building. The dog was wrapped in

blankets and revived with oxygen. The dog was listed in stable condition and recovering at a local veterinary clinic.



Russ Dillingham/Sun Journal

Fire Claims 13-Year-Old Boy

By Richard E. Taylor, Sr. Research and Planning Analyst

A 13 year-old boy was killed in a mobile home fire this past week and his father was hospitalized in serious condition at Maine Medical Center in Portland.

The fire appears to have started around 5 A.M. Smoke alarms were present and according to witnesses they were operating. Mobile homes are known for having a more rapid rate of fire spread than most structures that may have been the reason the alarms were not helpful for the boy. The fire is still under investigation.



Bangor Dailey News

State Fire Marshal Joins Smoke Free Housing Coalition

By Richard E. Taylor, Sr. Research and Planning Analyst

The State Fire Marshal's Office and the Smoke-Free Housing Coalition of Maine have joined together to promote smoke-free policy implementation as a way to not only protect residents from secondhand smoke-related illnesses but smoking-related fire injuries or death as well.

Last Wednesday, April 23rd, State Fire Marshal John Dean and the Smoke-Free Housing Coalition of Maine issued a call to action for multi-unit housing owners and managers to eliminate all indoor smoking by adopting written smoke-free policies by January 1, 2009.

Last year in Maine, we moved forward to reduce the number of fires related to smoking by joining a growing number of states passing legislation requiring that all cigarettes being sold or distributed for retail sale in Maine be reduced ignition propensity cigarettes. Along with legislation, fire codes, public education and awareness programs, there is still more we can do to reduce the frequency of smoking related fires. This is particularly why Fire Marshal John Dean joined the Smoke-Free Housing Coalition of Maine to encourage housing authorities to adopt a Smoke-Free policy.

In addition to reducing the probability of a fire starting, such a policy will reduce repair costs associated with units vacated by residents who smoked, health costs associated with smoking as well as second hand smoke.

For more information on the Smoke Free Housing Coalition go to:
<http://www.smokefreeforme.org/>



This Month in Fire History

April 23rd was the 68th anniversary of The Rhythm Nightclub Fire. The club, located in Natchez, Mississippi burned killing over 200 individuals in one of the deadliest fires in American history. Among those lost in the fire were bandleader Walter Barnes and nine members of his dance orchestra who were performing that evening in 1940. News of the tragedy reverberated throughout the country, especially among the African American community, and blues performers have recorded memorial songs such as "The Natchez Burning" and "The Mighty Fire" ever since. The fire was believed to have been the result of a cigarette coming in contact with Spanish Moss used as a decoration throughout the club.

UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**2nd Annual
Western Maine
Fire Attack School**

**May 16th, 17th, & 18th, 2008
The Bethel Inn Resort & Conference
Center, Bethel, Maine
Open house Vendor & Fire Service
Display Area
Friday Night and ALL DAY
SATURDAY! – No Charge!**

**Janet Wilmoth, Editorial Director for FIRE
CHIEF magazine, will be our keynote
speaker on Friday, May 16th.**

email: info@frandford.org website:
<http://www.frandford.org> phone: 207-
966-2280



June 9 - 10, 2008
FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

**MAINE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
FLORIAN HALL**

The Maine Fire Marshal's Office will present training on the following NFPA codes/standards to Fire and Code Enforcement Officials:

June 9th 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

NFPA 80, Standard for Fire Doors and Other Opening
Protectives – Fire Related Doors and Hardware – A
Guide to Field Inspections
Presented by the Foundation for the Advancement of
Life Safety and Security

NFPA 37, Standard for the Installation and Use of
Stationary Combustion Engines and Gas Turbines &
NFPA 110, Standard for Emergency and Standby Power
Systems
Presented by the staff of the Maine Fire Marshal's
Office Prevention Division

June 10th 8:00AM – 4:30PM

NFPA 101, Life Safety Code (refresher)
Presented by Jim Dolan of the National Fire Protection
Association

The State Fire Marshal's Office hopes all those directly involved in enforcing fire and building codes take notice and attend. To make sure you have a seat at this event we encourage you to register soon since space is limited.

For additional information you may contact Richard Taylor by calling (207) 626-3873 or Mary Purty at 626-3882. You may also access a registration form at:
http://maine.gov/dps/fmo/documents/Regisform08_002.doc



**Maine Forest Service
Forest Protection Division**

**6th Annual
MAINE STATE WILDFIRE TRAINING ACADEMY**

**May 31 & June 1, June 7 & 8, 2008
at Thomas College
in Waterville, Maine**

The Maine Forest Service is currently accepting registrations for the 6th Annual Maine State Wildfire Training Academy. This year, the Academy will be held on the first two weekends of June this year (May 31 – June 1 and June 7 -8, 2008). Classes will be held at Thomas College in Waterville and course fees range from \$20 to \$65 to cover lunch and course materials. Several classes ranging from basic wildland firefighting and the use of portable pumps, to fire operations in the Wildland Urban Interface and an engine boss course will be offered. For more information on how to register, please select the link below or contact the Maine Forest Service at 1-800-750-9777. The deadline for registration is May 4th.

<http://www.maine.gov/doc/mfs/index.shtml>



Invitation to Participate

Saturday, June 21st at 9:00AM

The Greater Fort Kent Area Chamber of Commerce is hosting the Second Annual Riverfest event. Riverfest 2008 is held to celebrate the landscape of the Saint John Valley.

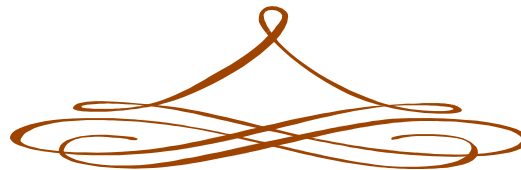
The main features of Riverfest 2008 are a 14.5 mile canoe race on the St. John River, and an "Anything Floats" competition on the Fish River. There will also be

festivities at Riverside Park in Fort Kent, the ending point for both race events.

Of special interest is a segment of the race open to all Law Enforcement and Public Service Agencies, who are invited to compete for the Fallen Officer Award. The award is in memory of Jean Baptiste Jalbert, a Maine Warden who died in the line of duty in the 1940's. The award is presented to the agency canoe team that crosses the finish line first. The Fallen Officer award is a traveling trophy that the winning agency can proudly display until the next years race.

The current award holders are Gary Sibley and Chad Abbott of the Maine Warden Service, who battled and paddled to victory over 6 other agency teams, including US Border Patrol and the Maine State Police, among others.

Call 834-7557 or 835-3507 for more information.



The ***Maine Fire Marshal News*** is an electronic publication of the Maine State Fire Marshal's Office.

Editors: Richard E. Taylor & Lori L. Gunn

To submit articles for publication contact the Fire Marshal's Office at (207) 626-3870 and ask to speak with the editors. You may also e-mail an article or comment to Richard.e.taylor@maine.gov

All articles are subject to an editorial staff review prior to inclusion. For a copy of submission requirements contact the editorial staff.

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